IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-32. Cancelled.

33.   (New) A method for use in facilitating electronic communication between first and second data systems, wherein said first data system operates in a first semantic environment defined by at least one of linguistics and syntax, specific to said first semantic environment, relating to the subject matter of an electronic communication under consideration, said electronic communication having a machine format and a content, wherein said content includes human directed information, said method comprising the steps of:

   providing a computer-based processing tool operating on a computer system;

   first using said computer-based processing tool to access said communication and convert at least a term of said first communication between said first semantic environment and a second semantic environment that is different from said first semantic environment, said term comprising a portion of said content;

   second using said computer-based processing tool to associate a classification with one of said first term and said converted term of said communication, said classification identifying said one of said first term and said converted term as belonging to a same class as at least one other term based on a shared characteristic of said at least one other term and said one of said first term and said converted term; and

   third using said classification to process said electronic communication under consideration.

34.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the second semantic environment is defined by at least one of a standardized lexicon and standardized syntax rules relating to the subject matter of said electronic communication under consideration.

35.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the step of first using comprises providing a set of semantic elements defining the second semantic environment, parsing the first communication into a set of objects and mapping the set of objects to the set of semantic elements.

36.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the communication comprises one of a product, service or parts list, an invoice, a catalogue, an order form or other business form.

37.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein the communication comprises a search query for searching one of a database and a network.

38.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein said shared characteristics is a related meaning of the converted term and said at least one other term, such that said classification groups together synonyms.

39.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein said shared characteristic is a common commercial category such that said classification groups together said converted term and said at least one other term based on a related commercial context.

40.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein said shared characteristic relates to a common lineage within a predefined hierarchical structure characterizing the subject matter of the communication.

41.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 33, wherein said step of third using comprises performing a search of one of a database and a network using said classification.

42.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 41, wherein said search is performed in a context of said first semantic environment.

43.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 41, wherein said search is performed in a context of said second semantic environment.

44.   (New) An apparatus for use in facilitating electronic communication between first and second data systems, wherein said first data system operates in a first semantic environment defined by at least one of linguistics and syntax, specific to said first semantic environment, relating to the subject matter of an electronic communication under consideration, said electronic communication having a machine format and a content, wherein said content includes human directed information, said apparatus comprising of:

a conversion module for accessing said communication and converting at least a term of said first communication between said first semantic environment and a second semantic environment that is different from said first semantic environment, said term comprising a portion of said content;

a classification module for associating a classification with one of said first term and second converted term of said communication, said classification identifying said one of said first term and said converted term as belonging to a same class as at least one other term based on a shared characteristic of said at least one other term and said one of said first term and said converted term; and

a processing module for using said classification to process said electronic communication under consideration.

45.   (New) An apparatus as set forth in Claim 44, wherein the second semantic environment is defined by at least one of a standardized lexicon and standardized syntax rules relating to the subject matter of said electronic communication under consideration.

46.   (New) An apparatus as set forth in Claim 44, wherein said conversion module is operative for providing a set of semantic elements defining the second semantic environment, parsing the first communication into a set of objects and mapping the set of objects to the set of semantic elements.

47.   (New) An apparatus as set forth in Claim 44, wherein the communication comprises one of a product, service or parts list, an invoice, a catalogue, an order form or other business form.

48.   (New) An apparatus as set forth in Claim 44, wherein the communication comprises a search query for searching one of a database and a network.

49.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 44, wherein said shared characteristic is a related meaning of the converted term and said at least one other term, such that said classification groups together synonyms.

50.   (New) A method as set forth in Claim 44, wherein said shared characteristic is a common commercial category such that said classification groups together said converted term and at least one other term based on a related commercial context.

51.   (New) An apparatus as set forth in Claim 44, wherein said shared characteristic relates to a common lineage within a predefined hierarchical structure characterizing the subject matter of the communication.

52.   (New) An apparatus as set forth in Claim 44, wherein said processing module is operative for performing a search of one of a database and a network using said classification.

53.   (New) An apparatus as set forth in Claim 52, wherein said search is performed in a context of said first semantic environment.

54.   (New) An apparatus is set forth in Claim 52, wherein said search is performed in a context of said second semantic environment.